Others of the Royal plasters are described as "devised to resolve and mollify payne"; or as "a goode healing plaster"; one made at Westminster was "devised to ease the payne and swelling about the ancles." They are transcribed below.

A GOODE healing plaster devised by the Kinges matie.

TAKE lytherge of leade. ceruse an. ʒiss. redde leade ʒij. coralli ruber. sanguinis draconis, rasure eboris, margaritarum an. ʒij. fynely pouldered and well washed wt white wyne, and rose water tyll they be preparated. Then take dere suett. and calfe suett and the fatte of a [?], or a henne, and boyle them to gether on a softe fyre wt the water of Cinquefole and [?] maior, then strayne them and putt them to the oother aforesaide, And so lett them boyle to guethere untill they be almost at a bodie of a plaster. and then put therunto therebintyne washed afore wt barley water ʒij. and make thereof a plaster.

A PLASTRE devised by the Kinges grace at westm[inster], to ease the payne and swelling abowt the ancles.

TAKE oyle of lillies washed wt white wyne and water of chamomell flowres ʒvj. redde corall combusted, and fynely pouldered ʒij. tutie preparat fynely pouldered ʒij. Boyle yor oyle wt these poulders over a softe fyre evermore styrring it, then [? putt] thereto the muscellage of marsh mallowes, [?] and psley of ech ʒj. boyle them to guether till they be plaster lyke. then putt therto of white waxe ʒj. And when it is well bodyed, take it from the fire, and in the cooling putt therto these poulders folowing of long wormes lytte [?], and well washed in white wyne of rose leaves fynely pouldered. chamomell flowers, and mellilote flowers an. [? ʒiss.] Et fiat emplastrum.

OF the other twenty-four plasters sixteen are unnamed, the remaining eight being made by the four doctors either singly or two or more in collaboration. One is made in different consistencies for summer and winter use. Following the thirty-five ordinary plasters are four "spasmadraps" or "dipped plasters," two of them being by Dr. Butts (Sir William Butts). Then we have fifty recipes for "Oyntements," two of which are transcribed below. Fourteen ointments are devised by the king and two white ointments are described as "made for the king."

AN OYNTEMENT devised by the Kinges matie at Cawoode to drye excoriations and comforte the membre called the swete Oyntement.

TAKE oyle of roses well washed wt warme white wyne viij.ʒ redde leade ʒiij. redde corall ʒij. margarites ʒj. cornu vnicornu ʒij. Boyle all yor metalles and oyle to guether tyll it be vnguent lyke, Then put in these juces folowing of eche one vnce, and a half besides the fire evermore styrring. tyll they be wrought all in, woode bynde, mallowes, plantaigne, the tender leaves of the Aple tree. and solatre. and cast of all the pouldre of chamomell flowres, violet flowres, rose leaves, and ireos of ech dd vnce. et fiat.

A GRENE oyntement devised by the Kinges hieghnes to take awaye heate, and Indurations, and to resolve and ease payne.

TAKE the fatte of capons ʒxij. well washed wt the water of lymondes, then drawe the muscellage of thiese thinges folowing wt rose water, and wt the water of ["night shade" erased] lymondes. Take of quynseede, lynesede, psilii, et radicis Althee and ʒj. then take these metalles fynely pouldered and preparated wt rose water, and water of lymondes of lytherge of golde ʒiij. redde leade ʒij. redde corall ʒj. Then boyle all these thinges to guether tyll it be vnguent lyke: then worke in these juces folowing. of violet leaves, mallowe leaves, solatre hennebayne, chamomell flowres and rose buddes ana ʒj., And last of all worke in white wyne and water of lymondes as much as shall suffyse. Et fiat.

NEXT follow five "balmes" for "woundes, palseyes and agues," in which the king had no share. One, the only recipe in Latin in the whole MS., is truly entitled "Aqua mirabilis vel mater Balsami," for it contains a total of forty-nine ingredients or mixtures of ingredients. Henry or his physicians are rather to be commended for limiting such concoctions to one or two in a total of 114. The remainder of the MS. is concerned with twelve waters, lotions or decoctions and eight "cataplasmes or pultices," four of the first set being by the king and three of the second. We transcribe the following:

A CATAPLASME made vngtment lyke of the Kinges Maties devise made at westm [inster]

TAKE a quarte of mylke, a fyne manchett, a handfull of mallowes, a handfull of rose leaves. Boyle these to guether tyll they be softe, then strayne them, and drawe the pulpe of them and putt therto the muscellage of psilii ʒj. the yolke of ij. newe layd egges, the pouldre of long wormes well washed and dryed ʒss. the pouldre of mellilote flowres, and chamomel flowres, of eche half an vnce, oyle of gardeyn lyllies as muche as shall suffise. Et fiat.

A PULTHES devised by the Kinges Matie at hampton courte,

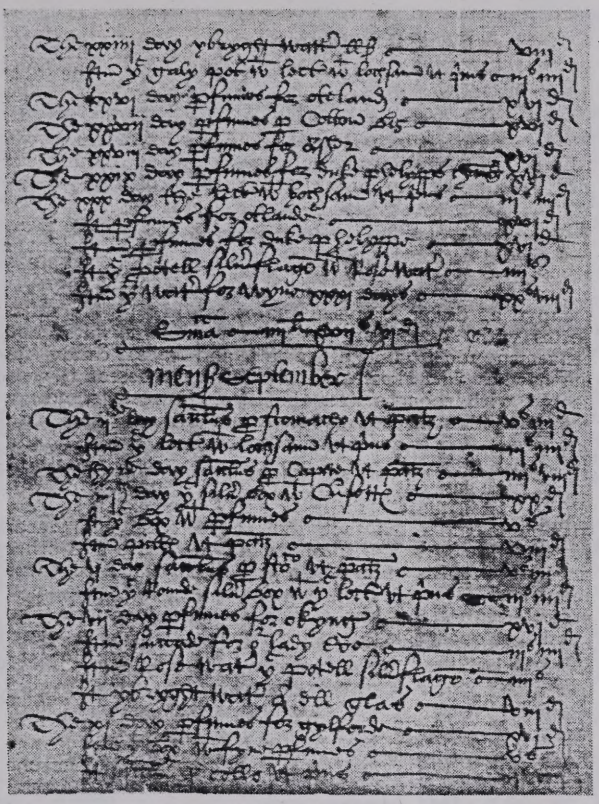
TAKE violett leaves, night shade, of eche ij. handfull, chamomell flowres one handfull, mallowes ij. handfull, rose leaves one handfull, swete appuls iiij. a manchett, Boyle all these to guether in swete mylke tyll they be tendre, then strayne them and putt therto the muscellage of linesede, and of holyocke roote, and of figgues of eche ij. vnces and the yolke of ij, newe layd egges oyle of lyllies, and oyle of swete . . .

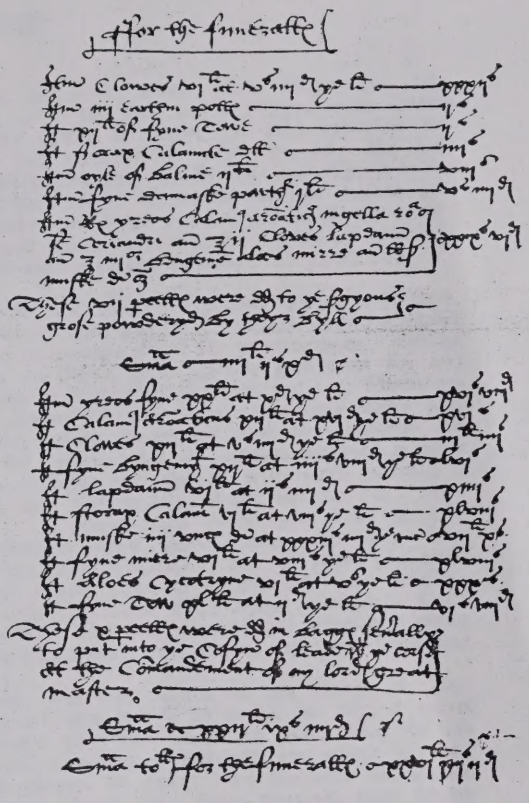
The use of lead and turpentine in the plasters is as sound straightforward practice as the casual inclusion of the fabulous unicorn in an ointment is curious. Presumably substitutes for the genuine unicorn horn were readily available. The other recipes, if a little lengthy, and requiring much wine and rose water, are clearly not without practical value. They were probably tested on the royal person.

2—Notes on Accounts Paid to the Royal Apothecaries in 1546 and 1547

BY HOWARD BAYLES

THE exact extent of Henry the Eighth's medical knowledge will probably never be known. We know, however, on evidence which it is the chief purpose of this article to set forth, that in the last few months of his life he was ordered considerable quantities of medicine for internal and external use, and that there were at the same time three or four apothecaries in the royal household. From the year 1540 (and possibly earlier) till the King's death in 1547, Thomas Alsop, John de Sodo and John Emmyngwey received quarterly salaries as apothecaries on the establishment; and on November 30, 1546, Patrick Reynolde was given office in the same capacity. The "Letters and Papers . . . of the Reign of Henry VIII" contain numerous references to the sums paid to the first three of these apothecaries; collating the entries, we find that Alsop (described as "gentleman poticary") and de Sodo (who was "poticary to the Lady Mary") each received £6 13s. 4d. a quarter, while Emmyngwey (a "yeoman





ACCOUNTS FOR MEDICINES PREPARED FOR HENRY VIII AND FOR FUNERAL SPICES

On the left, parts of the accounts for August and September 1546 (see transcription in text); right, the bill for spices used at the king's funeral, ten lots of which were put into the royal coffin

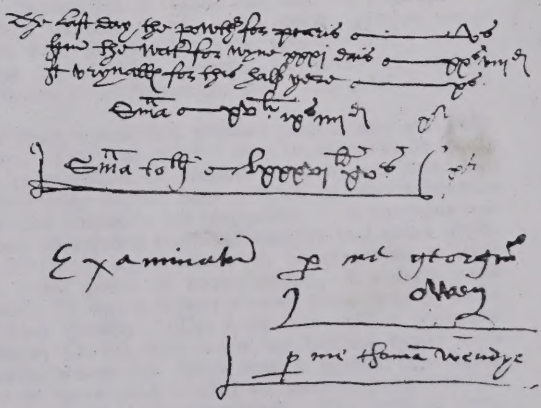
potícary") was paid 55s. 7½d. for the same period, together with an allowance of 22s. 6d. a year "for his livery coat." The King left in his will 100 "merkes" to Alsop, and a like sum to "Patrick —" (presumably Reynolde), but nothing, apparently, to either of the other apothecaries.

In addition to receiving a salary, Alsop kept an account of medicines supplied to the royal household, and in at least one instance his bill was paid without much delay, though in two instalments. Among the documents preserved in the Public Record Office is a series of five such accounts, which for the purpose of payment were treated as one. They are clearly written in a calligraphy of the type that the late Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, in his "Introduction to Greek and Latin Palæography," calls a Chancery or legal hand as distinguished from the narrower formation of letters known as a court hand. The two receipts on the back of the last of the eighteen folios indicate that Alsop did not, and probably could not, command the regular handwriting of the accounts; as a gentleman apothecary, he may well have regarded the possession of a beautiful "hand" as only worthy of persons in a lower station of life. Shakespeare makes Hamlet say:

> "I once did hold it, as our statists do,
> A baseness to write fair, and labour'd much
> How to forget that learning . . . ."

THE first of these bills, relating to medicines for the King himself, extends to twelve folios, the last of which is about half-filled; the total of the items amounts to £86 15s., and there is an additional sum of 24s. for six items supplied in the month of February 1547. King Henry died on January 28 of that year. Each of the sheets of this account measures approximately 8¼ inches by 6 inches, and most of them are filled on both sides. Then comes a longer sheet (9¾ inches by 5¾ inches), headed "For the funeralles"—the plural form of the word was then used, as it still is in French. The next and longest sheet of paper is headed "For my Lady Marye's grace." A shorter bill for "Mr. Hylle the Synger," follows; and lastly, covering both sides of one sheet and part of the recto of another, there is an account of goods supplied to "My Lady Margaret Duglas" and the addition "of all the particulars within this boke," namely, £127 3s. 2d.

Although these bills are too lengthy for extended quotation, I may perhaps transcribe the items for the first month, August 1546. Most of the contractions have been disregarded in favour of the words they represent; it would be impossible to convey the difference, for example, between "per" and "pro,"



ENDING OF BILL PASSED BY TWO OFFICIALS

which are written as two different forms of the letter "p," without having special type cast. Many readers will possibly find it amusing to identify some of the more uncommon items. The August account (omitting a few repetitive entries) reads:—

The first day the galy pot with the lectuary ut prius	ijs viijd
Item the box with perfumes ut prius ..	ijs vjd
The iijde day aqua eufragie the vyoll ut prius ..	iiijd
The vth day a galy pot with the lectuary ut pro rege gyvyn to the queen's grace	iijs iiijd
The viij day the potell silver flagon with rose water ..	iiijs
Item a glass with ybryght water ..	iiijd
Item urynalles sent to Hampton Court..	ijs
The xth day perfumes for Hampton Court ..	xvjd
Item ybryght water a vyoll	iiijd
The xij day the lectuary with lochsanum ut prius ...	iijs iiijd
Item sacculus pro maxilla ut prius ..	ijs viijd
[13th] Item a great saccule pro stomacho ut patet..	vs iiijd
The xvj day frontale ex diversis ut patet ..	ijs viijd
Item a box with fyne perfumes for the Admyrall of Fraunce	vs
The xix day another box with fyne perfumes ..	vs
The xx day pylles of Rasis ut prius	viijd
Item perfumes for Otlande	xvjd
Item ij ellys of lynyn clothe to make bagges to put in cumfettes at xd the ell ..	xxd
The xxiij day Bartylmew eve succade	iijs iiijd
The xxiiij day ybryght water lb. ss	viijd
The xxvij day perfumes per Cotton bis	xvjd
The xxix day perfumes for Duke Philypp's chamber	xvjd
Item the water for wyne xxxj days ..	xxs viijd
Summa iiijli. xvijs. vjd.	

THE increased length of the bills for subsequent months is probably related to a deterioration in King Henry's health. From occasional allusions in the "Letters and Papers" it may be gathered that, for several years before his death, Henry the Eighth had trouble with a fistula in the leg. We read, for instance, that in 1541 the opening suddenly closed, to his great alarm, and that the same thing had happened five or six years previously. He had about that time at least one attack of tertian fever; he ate and drank excessively, and grew so stout that he found walking difficult. While the August items occupy (without the addition) thirty-eight lines, those for September extend to eighty-seven lines, those for December to 165, and those for January 1547, the last month of the illness, to 125. It will be seen from the transcription of the entries for August that "repeats" were fairly numerous; it will therefore suffice to select from the remainder of the account some of the most characteristic particulars.

In September these included ybryght water a dll glass 8d.; spermaceti dd to my Lord Harbarde 12d.; dyvers spyces etc. dd to the coke pro rege 20d.; gum animii 12d.; the julep with vino granatorum ut. patet 2s. 8d.; whyt lozenges a box 3s. 4d.; whyt manus Christi a box 5s. 4d.; lycorys styckys 12d.; the fomentacion and ij sponges to the syrgeons 4s. 8d.; lozenges ex aromatico rosarum lb. ss. 3s. 4d.; the glass with locio pro ore ut prius 20d.; a box with penettes 12d.; pro divercis for Thomas the hunte at Gylforde jussu Regis ut patet 12s.; aq. caprifolii bis 8d.; cons. barberis for my Lord Harbarde 12d.; pilles de rubbarbo 8d.; wodbynde water 8d.; a glyster ut patet 3s. 4d. As in each of the other months, the last entry is "the water for wine" at the rate of 8d. a day.

The salient features in October are a frontall in sendall ut patet 2s. 4d.; a coffyn with pulles menthe 4d.; manus Christi drege lb. ss. ut patet 3s. 4d.; sacculus No. ij ad lavandum pedes 2s.; the powder for peares 5s.; lyquorys and sugar candy for the Kynge's hounds 2s.; perfumes where the King dynyd 16d.; sugar candy and mell rosarum for the hawkes 8d.; for the hawkes rubarbe and mummea 20d.; aqua maiorane cum musco etc. ut patet 2s. 4d.; almondes beeyn for oyle ad labia 4d.; pilles of masticke and aqua carprifolii 12d.; ij new sponges 16d.

In November we find for my Lord Harbarde manna 3iss. 7s. 6d.; dyvers medycyns for hawkes of ten sundry sortes in silver boxis jussu Regis 15s. 6d.; a jarre glas 4d.; for the bayn bagges with herbis sponges muske cyvet ut patet 5s. 8d.; sacculus pro stomacho in red sarcenet ut prius 4s. 8d.; the hole recept of pulles holandie made for the Kynge's use 2s. 8d.; the first water to washe hawkes' meate 4d.; a sawce ut patet pro Rege 12d.; figges at divers tymys 4d.; animii and storax calamite 8d.; pilles of masticke No. ij 8d.; unguentum pro emoroyd ut patet 16d.

DECEMBER, the month comprising, as we have seen, more entries than any of the others, shows a higher proportion of medicines than its predecessors. Among other things we have fyne lignum gwaycum lb. xvj occupyd at divers tymys ut patet 9s. 4d.; ij. Flaunders pottes with covers for the same 12d.; rose water and bengemen 16d.; gum dragagant and sugar candy for the hawkes 8d.; skarlet for iij patrons whereof ij were bastyd with sponges and the iij with woll 3s. 2d.; a potell botell cum lixivia 8d.; olium salitum . . . 16d.; provydyd . . . a gowrd with turbentyne 8 li. 5s. 4d.; ij stavys dressyd with musk ambr etc. 26s. 8d.; an infusion lax with rubarb[e?] etc. ut patet 5s.; aceti albi a potell botell 12d.; ij suppositors 4d.; a glass with aqua ordei bis fact 16d.; aqua ordei cum zacc° a quart glas 8d. The total cost of the drugs and other materials for this month was £25 os. 4d.; one item was not priced.

In January, the last month of the illness, we find alacras a quart glas botell ut patet 2s. 8d.; a quart glas with aqua pro vino made ut patet 8d.; for the Kynge's byrde a potell of beyonde sea wheat 5s. 4d.; ij pilles of pionea ut patet 8d.; decoctio ex guaico etc. ut patet a quart 12d.; aqua muscata cum decoctione nigelle ut patet 12d.; nigella contusa in panno ligato 4d.; a plaster of poliarchion pro stomacho 4s. 8d.; a p'paratyve ex diversis ut patet 20d.; sem. cartami mundat. 3ss. 8d.; sirupus de bizanciis lb ss. 15d.; cumfettes of anisy vj li. and as many of swet fennell sede jussu Magistri Owen 24s.; a lect past . . . confeccio pionie et actuarii ut patet 7s. 6d.; ij new fyne sponges 2s.

THE bill "For the funeralles" consists of a list of spices, seven lots of which were "dd to the syrgons gross powderyd by theyr byll," and ten lots were delivered "in bagges severally to put into the cofyn of leade with the corse at the commandement of my lord great master." The spices include cloves, oil of balme, nigella, coriander, "bengemen," aloes, "mirre," "muske" (4½ oz. at 33s. 4d.=£7 10s.), and tow (40 lb. at 2d.=6s. 8d.). The prices of the seven lots and those of the ten lots are added separately; the bill amounts to £26 12s. 2d.

The entries "For my Lady Marye's grace" commence on September 3, 1546, and end on February 9, 1547. They include a pot with greyn gynger venys 5s.; a box with diacitoniton cum specibus 16d.; nigella in sindone ligata 8d.; eneuma ut prius et sentary 20d.; perfumes at ij tymys 2s. 8d. The total is £4 5s.

FEW of these words and phrases present any real difficulty. The "ut patet" may be taken as implying that the prescription or formula was a new one, and that it was duly copied into a book or was otherwise "at all times available for inspection." A sacculus was a small bag containing contused simples and other medicaments for local application. A penette was a stick or other small piece of barley-sugar. A coffyn (now spelt "coffin") was a three-cornered paper bag or twist used to hold comfits. (The term has still a technical use.) Manus Christi was made by boiling sugar with an aromatic water. A drege was a comfit containing any drug or spice, and is said to have had hard-boiled yolk of egg as one of its ingredients. The total of these bills was paid in two instalments, of £100 and £27 3s. 2d. respectively, on May 28 and June 28 1547. The receipt for the first item is signed in Latin and the other in English.